(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have proposed to enact a legislation providing, *inter alia*, a ban on smoking at selected public areas.

Steps to avoid smoking in sensitive places

1538. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that due to courtesy smoking is tolerated on even sensitive places which is a risk; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to avoid such a big risk and deterioration of public health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have proposed enacting a legislation providing, inter alia, ban on smoking in public places.

Statement regarding environmental tobacco smoke

1539. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmennt are aware that the scientists do not agree that ETS has been proven to be a cause of disease and the scientific evidence, considered as a whole, does not justify this;

(b) what do the Government consider for this statement; and

(c) whether due to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) the hospitals are full of patients and are waiting for serious ailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Majority of the scientific community is of the view that environmental tobacco smoke is an important factor in the causation of diseases like lung cancer, apart from cardiovascular and other lung diseases.

(c) No such data is available.

Malaria affected areas in Andhra Pradesh

1540. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) which are the worst Malaria affected areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the areas thus identified; and

(c) whether Government have extended any assistance to counter the increasing incidence of malaria in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Based on the analysis of data for 1993 and 1994, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Srikakulam, Adilabad and Khamam districts of Andhra Pradesh were more affected by Malaria.

(c) In addition to monitoring of the Malaria situation by the Central Govt. and providing technical guidelines for implementing the Malaria Control activities, the following assistance during 1993-94 and 1994-95 have been provided to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh:—

Year	Rs. in lakhs
93-94 . .	500·62
94-95	637·06